

Children are always welcome here.

We have a wonderful nursery and childcare for infants through preschool each Sunday in the Will Young Building. Worship bags for young children are available in the narthex near the front doors. Please speak with an usher for assistance.

Pew Prep - We invite any kindergarten and first grade children to attend Pew Prep after the Children’s Message. Our volunteers will lead the children to the Children’s Chapel on the second floor of the Education Building where they will engage in fun activities while learning about different aspects of worship. The goal of Pew Prep is to provide education that allows our young worshipers to understand and fully participate when they are in the sanctuary. Volunteers will bring the children back to the sanctuary during the Doxology and they will return to sit with their family.

Offering our Talents, Time, and Treasure: In response to the Good News of God’s saving love in Jesus Christ, we are invited to give of ourselves and our resources. If you are seeking ways to share your time and your talents, please speak to one of the pastors. Financial contributions may be placed in the offering plate, or by scanning the QR code on the card in the pew rack, or by texting 704-228-7459.

Large Print Hymnals, printed copies of the sermon, and a hearing assistance system are available. We have an AED Machine in the Narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance with any of these items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

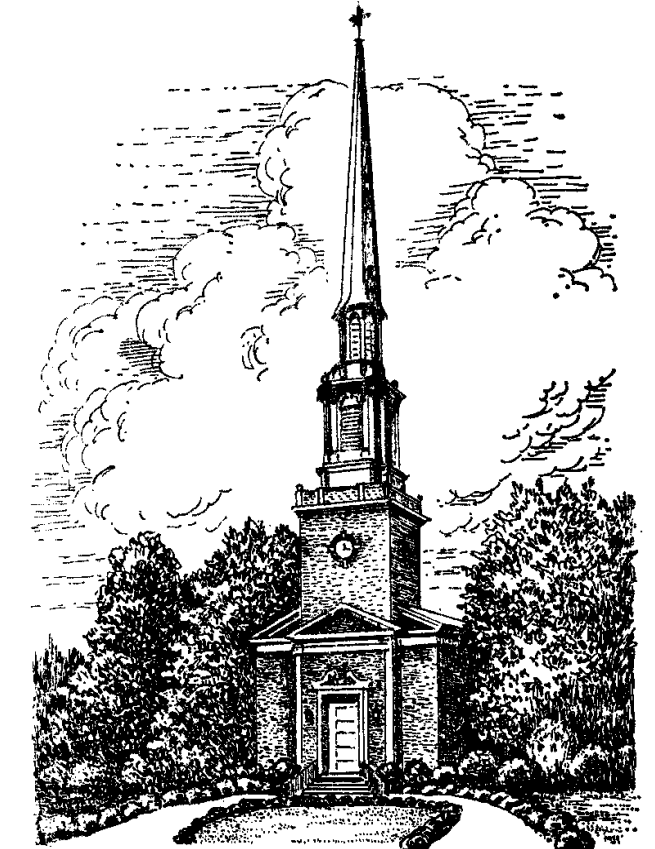
Birth –The rosebud in the chancel today is in honor of Mateo Saenz Niblock, born on March 31, 2024 in Columbia, SC. Parents are Rebekah Niblock and Flipe Saenz. Grandparents are Anne and William Niblock.

April Lunch Bunch meets this Wednesday, April 24, at 11:45 AM in Davis Hall for lunch and a visit to Memorial Gardens. Call the reservation line by tomorrow, April 22: 704-788-2100 #7.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

LATER TODAY 4:30 PM	Combined Youth (Davis Hall & Movie Theater)
Monday, April 22 9:00 AM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Staff Meeting (FH Sunroom) Earth Day Q & A (Commons) Boy Scouts (Will Young rm 304)
Tuesday, April 23 9:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Cub Scouts (Davis Hall) AI Anon (Commons)
Wednesday, April 24 9:00 AM 10:30 AM 11:45 AM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Bible Study (Library Conference Room) Lunch Bunch (Davis Hall) Officer Training (Davis Hall) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, April 25 9:00 AM 6:30 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Boy Scout Advancement Boards of Review (Ed Bldg)
Thursday, April 26 9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Sunday, April 28 9:45 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:30 PM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms) Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room) Worship (in person and live streamed) Combined Youth (Davis Hall) 16+ Youth to Night Shelter

Fourth Sunday Of Easter



**First Presbyterian Church
70 Union Street North
Concord, North Carolina**

Sunday, April 21, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CONCORD

www.firstpresconcord.org

(704) 788-2100

Rev. Ellen Crawford True, Senior Pastor
Rev. Casey Aldridge, Associate Pastor
René Prager, Director of Christian Education
Rev. Bryan Hovey, Parish Associate
Dr. Jacqueline Yost, Director of Music and Organist
Dr. Jeffrey W. Price, Choirmaster
Amy Woolwine, Clerk of Session
Jenny Chikes, Moderator, Board of Deacons
For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:
www.firstpresconcord.org



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

As the music plays, you are invited to pause, reflect, and pray silently as we prepare for worship.

*To your name, Lord Jesus,
help me to bow the knee
and all its worshiping,
bow the head
and all its thinking,
bow the will
and all its choosing,
bow the heart
and all its loving. Amen.*
~ PC(USA) Book of Common Worship

PRELUDE

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Pad found on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to your neighbor.

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song.
People: We will sing to the Lord, with all of creation.
Leader: Sing to the Lord; bless God's name;
People: We will sing a song of God's salvation today and every day.
All: Sing to the Lord a new song!

*HYMN 304 *O Sing a New Song to the Lord* GONFALON ROYAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You turn the world upside down, O Lord. You send your Son, not as an emperor but as a humble servant. We call him King while bowing to other powers. We call him Lord while letting others tell us how to live. Forgive us, Holy One, and lead us once more in the way of the crucified and risen Christ, our Savior, our loving Lord, and our only King. Amen. *[Time for silent confession follows.]*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 240 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
Give praise to his name. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

lay reader, Logan Barrier

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 96:1-9

pew bible, page 550

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND AND THIRD LESSONS

Acts 17:1-9

pew bible, page 137

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

pew bible, page 203

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967

We acknowledge that God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds. We ascribe to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But in Jesus Christ God reveals love by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ transforms the world and discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Sons and Daughters arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw
(Sanctuary Choir)

(1.) O sons and daughters, let us sing! The King of Heaven, the glorious King, o'er death today rose triumphing. Alleluia! Alleluia! (2.) When Thomas first the tidings heard, how they had seen the risen Lord, he doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia! Alleluia! (3.) [Jesus] "My pierced side, O Thomas, see: My hands, my feet, I show to thee; not faithless but believing be." Alleluia! Alleluia!

(4.) No longer Thomas then denied, he saw the feet, the hands, the sides: [Thomas] "Thou art my Lord and God," he cried. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*DOXOLOGY 609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**For love that will not let us go,
for grace that leads us on,
for life that draws us out into the life of your battered and beloved world,
we give you thanks and praise, O God.
Use all that we offer
to turn the world upside down.
Where there is despair, may our offerings bring hope.
Where there is too little, may our gifts bring enough.
And where hatred and fear cast long shadows,
may all that we offer shine the love and light of Christ. Amen.**

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 238

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen
(Sanctuary Choir)

DANISH

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*
CCLI License #11219393

Worship notes: This morning's affirmation is drawn from the **Confession of 1967** which "is built around a single passage of Scripture: 'In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself.' (2 Cor. 5:19)." Written in a tumultuous time in history, this confession seeks to address the church's role in the modern world.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You are invited to join us for study, service, education, and fellowship in addition to worship. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this community, please speak with one of the pastors following worship.

Sanctuary Safety—In our ongoing efforts to care for all who work, play, and worship on our campus, we are being intentional about access to buildings throughout the week and on Sundays. All sanctuary doors are locked after worship begins on Sunday mornings, with the exception of the main doors leading to the narthex. Worshipers are free to exit by any of the doors at any time. To re-enter, please come through the doors to the narthex.